Increase in the retail and wholesale prices of essential commodities

*2. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:
SHRI SOM PAL:

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) what was the increase in retail and whole-sale prices of essential commodities since 9th November, 1990 till date;

(b) whether Government perceives any decline in the prices of essencial commodities in view of good monsoons; and

(c) whether edible oil is likely to be imported; if so, what is the estimated quantity likely to be imported and by when?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI RAO BIRENDRA SINGH): (a) Statements showing the retail prices and wholesale prices of selected essential commodities for selected centres as on 9-11-1990 and 1-2-1991 are laid on the Table of the House as Annexures—I and II respectively. No. (*See* Appendix CLVII, Annexure No. I]

(b) The prices of essential commodities depend on factors like, prices of other commodities, money supply and overall liquidity, demand and supply etc. In view of good monsoon, prices of essential commodities are expected to soften.

(c) The quantum of edible oils to be imported is decided by Government from time to time, keeping in view various factors, such as gap between demand and supply, international prices of oils, BOP position and other related factors. Government will try to bridge the gap between demand and supply to the maximum possible extent, subject to the overall availability of foreign exchange and other factors related with imported edible oils.

Cancellation of Trains due to non-availability of Diesel

*3. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:
CHOWDHARY HARI SINGH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of trains have been cancelled anticipating non-availability of diesel due to the Gulf War;

(b) if so, the names of those trains;

(c) what would be the effect of the cancellation of trains on Railway economy;

(d) the quantity and value of fuel saved due to the said cancellations, till date;

(e) by when Government propose to restart the cancelled trains; and

(f) whether Government propose to introduce some more trains in future to cope with the demand for passenger and goods movement?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) to (f) 41 pairs of Mail|Express|Passenger services, as per statement, have been withdrawn. The engines and paths saved due to withdrawal of passenger trains are being utilised to improve freight movement and, therefore, Railways' consumption of Diesel will not reduce in the area of traction. A gradual process to restore these trains will be initiated as soon as the position starts improving. Introduction of new trains is a continuous process based on demand subject to availability of resources, operational feasibility and commercial viability.